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*Global Security News & Reports*

## **Istanbul, Turkey: Second Quarter Crime Reports**

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#### **Europe - Turkey**

27 Jul 2006

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#### **Indigenous and Transnational Terrorism in Turkey**

The Regional Security Office at the U.S. Consulate Istanbul reported the following:

The following report is a list of criminal incidents that were reported to the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul during the second quarter of 2006.

### **Low-Level Terrorism:**

April 26: A sound bomb exploded in front of Turkey's ruling AK party building headquarters in the Besyuzevler district of Istanbul (located on the European-side of the city).

May 5: A hand grenade was thrown into the garden of Cumhuriyet Newspaper's central building located in Istanbul's Sisli district. No one has claimed responsibility.

May 10: Five members of the PKK were arrested by the Turkish National police in possession of 7.5 kilograms of A-4 explosives.

May 10: A sound bomb exploded under a Turkish National Police car in the Halkali district of Istanbul. No injuries were reported and no one claimed responsibility.

May 11: A hand grenade was thrown at the Cumhuriyet Newspaper building. This was the second time in two weeks the building was attacked.

### **Possible Terrorism Incidents:**

May 25: At approximately 1515 hours, a major fire broke out in a cargo warehouse at Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul. There were no reported fatalities. Despite PKK claims of responsibility, Turkish authorities insist the fire was an accident. The investigation into the origin of the fire continues.

June 1: At 1310 hours, an explosion occurred in the basement of a 5-story building housing a firing range, located in the Uskudar District of Istanbul (on the Asian-side of the city). Despite PKK claims of responsibility, Turkish authorities attribute the explosion to a spark that was the result of a halogen light being hit by an errant bullet which in turn ignited stored ammunition.

## **Assaults:**

May 1: An American journalist was assaulted during a May Day demonstration while attempting to photograph PKK supporters.

May 1: Two Americans were assaulted and robbed by several youths while walking on Istiklal Caddesi in the early morning hours.

May 20: An American tourist was drugged and robbed after two English speaking Turkish men bought him dinner and drinks in the Taksim area of Istanbul. After drinking some of his soft drink the victim passed out, waking hours later in the hospital. (For further information on this and similar incidents, please see the Safety and Security report on "[Drug-Beat-Rob](#)" crimes.)

May 25: An American tourist was drugged and robbed by two subjects after having coffee with them in the Sultanahmet area of Istanbul. It appears that the victim had been assaulted by the suspects in order to obtain his PIN number to his credit card. He woke up in the hospital with little memory of the incident. (For further information on this and similar incidents, please see the Safety and Security report on "[Drug-Beat-Rob](#)" crimes.)

May 27: At 0045 hours, an American tourist was drugged, assaulted and robbed by several assailants.

## **Anti-American Events**

May 5: Several non-governmental organizations held an anti-American, anti-war protest at Istanbul's Taksim Square.

## **Theft:**

The Regional Security Office at the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul has noted a slight increase in theft and other street crimes in the past year.

April 14: An American citizen was the victim of a pick-pocket while touring Topkapi Palace.

April 21: At 1300 hours, an American was the victim of a vehicle burglary. An unidentified perpetrator removed her purse from the

back seat of her unattended car parked on a street in the affluent Etiler District.

May 3: At 2330 hours, an American tourist was the victim of a purse snatching in Taksim square when a 15 year old boy tore a bag from his shoulder.

May 4: At 1630 hours, an American woman was the victim of a purse snatching while walking from the ferry port in Eminonu.

May 17: At 1700 hours, an American woman reported two female suspects stole her handbag on Bagdat Caddesi.

May 20: At 1500 hours, an American tourist was robbed of his passport and his wallet containing \$2000 by four men at the covered Bazaar. Two suspects approached the victim from the front lifting his arms above his head as two others entered his pockets.

May 31: At 1500 hours, an American tourist's purse was stolen while she was touring the Blue Mosque.

June 4: At approximately 0600, two American citizens were robbed and assaulted outside of a bar in the Sultanahmet Area of Istanbul.

June 16: An American citizen reported being over charged in a bar advertising adult entertainment after being befriended by a Turkish man on the street.

June 27: At 0900 hours, an American woman attending a conference in Istanbul was the victim of a purse snatching when two men assaulted her in front of a high end American hotel.

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